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ART. VII.—CRITICAL NOTICES.

1. — *Across America and Asia. Notes of a Five Years' Journey around the World, and of Residence in Arizona, China, and Japan.* By RAPHAEL PUMPELLY. New York: Leypoldt and Holt. 1870. 8vo. pp. 454.

MR. PUMPELLY is a new writer in a new field. His book is consequently fresh throughout, — fresh in material and fresh in style. He has seen the border lands of our own country under very exciting circumstances, and has visited the interior of two of the oldest empires of the globe, with opportunities for investigation rarely if ever enjoyed by a modern scientific observer. The narrative which describes his protracted journey is at once sensible and racy, full of important facts, and enlivened by entertaining adventures. It is rarely the fortune of a young man to have so good a tale to tell, it is rarer still for a young man to tell his tale so well. The writer seems indeed to carry his professional experience as a miner into literary labors, knowing where to find the metal worth having, and how to separate it from slag and dross. Throughout the volume it is apparent that the author is a man of science. He is keen in his observations, guarded in his statements, alive to all the phenomena of nature, interested especially in the minerals, the rocks, and the physical structure of the lands he visits. On the other hand, his book is not a scientific book, but a popular narrative of travel in paths rarely trodden by Americans, and even less frequently described by skilful pens. Some portions of the volume relate to scenes and places hitherto quite unknown to the Western world; and those pages which deal with the geology of China and Japan are an important contribution to scientific literature, though the more strictly scientific results of his Oriental researches have been previously published by the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Pumpelly was not a professional explorer of new countries, nor was he even a traveller by forethought and choice. He was an educated, wide-awake American, whose versatility, energy, and well-trained eye were recognized everywhere, and were constant introductions to new acquaintances and to new occupations. Hence he was led on from mountain to coast, from land to sea, from island to main, and so through nearly all the phases of modern life in the north temperate zone.

In the autumn of 1860, Mr. Pumpelly, having, if we are rightly informed, completed his professional studies in some of the mining-

schools in Europe, was sent out as a mining-engineer to Santa Rita, in Arizona, where he was engaged to take charge of the silver-mines for a year. Thus began a career of exciting adventure and study, which took him around the globe, and brought him back to this country at the end of five years. In this journey nearly seventeen thousand miles of his wanderings were by land, six thousand of these being accomplished on horseback. Three distinct divisions may consequently be recognized in this traveller's tale,—Arizona, Japan, and China,—with a postscript on Siberia and Central Russia; and to each of these sections we shall briefly refer.

The Arizona chapters are horrible revelations of the barbarism of the Apaches, and the no less hateful barbarism of the outcasts from civilization who infested the mountains, and impeded the work of honest men, from 1857 till 1862, and even to a later period. "Murder was the order of the day among a total white and peon population of a few thousand souls. It was daily committed by Americans upon Americans, Mexicans, and Indians; by Mexicans upon Americans; and the hand of the Apache was, with reason, against both of the intruding races." The charge of a silver-mine, in the midst of such a murderous and plundering community, with the nearest court several hundred miles distant, was not a sinecure. When we read of the tragical fate of Grosvenor, Mr. Pumpelly's companion, and the agent of the Santa Rita mines, we understand how a valley which in natural beauty "seemed a paradise" was changed by man into "a very prison of hell."

After our blood has tingled with the story of Indian atrocity, as witnessed by this young mining-engineer, we are struck dumb by his admission that such barbarity on the part of the red men is due chiefly to the injustice and duplicity of the whites. No language seems to Mr. Pumpelly too severe when he speaks of the mode in which our countrymen have been dealing with the Indians. We sincerely hope that "the Quaker policy" (if that means honesty and justice) of our fighting President is introducing a change which will in time soften, if it does not civilize, the remnant of the aborigines. We commend the narrative of these mining experiences in Arizona, and the reflections they suggest, to all who are interested in the westward march of civilization. Not less stirring is the story of the journey overland from Santa Rita to San Francisco; but we can merely allude to these exciting incidents, which are, after all, only a prelude to the principal portion of the volume.

With the tact to which we have before referred, the writer touches lightly upon his experience in California and upon his glimpses of the

Sandwich Islands, and rapidly transports the reader across the Pacific. The Japanese government having sent to this country for two geologists and mining-engineers to explore a part of the Japanese Empire, it was Mr. Pumpelly's good fortune to be selected for this service, and he set sail for Yokohama, in November, 1861, with his associate, Mr. W. P. Blake. A voyage of ninety days brought him to the island empire, which he entered through the bay of Yeddo. He remained in Yokohama, making occasional excursions to various interesting localities in its immediate vicinity, for about three months, much of which time was spent in the study of the spoken language, preparatory to the official services which the government had proposed. Among the most interesting objects to be seen in the neighborhood of Yokohama is the Dai-butzu, a wonderful statue of Buddha at Kamakura. It represents Buddha as having attained, after ages of purification, *nirvana*, the state of utter annihilation of external consciousness. This colossal figure, which is in bronze, fifty feet high, and ninety-six feet in circumference at the base, is described by Mr. Pumpelly as a work of high art. "I felt," he says, "that I saw for the first time, and where I least expected it, a realization in art of a religious idea. No Madonna on canvas or Christ in marble had been other to me than suggestive through the aid of an acquaintance with the subjects treated. This Buddha of Kamakura is a successful rendering of a profound religious abstraction." A photo-lithograph of this remarkable figure is given as a frontispiece to the volume.

The difficulties which beset the engineers are rather hinted at than fully described. Mr. Pumpelly appears to have fallen in with well-informed foreigners, and gives in several excellent essays the result of his inquiries into Japanese politics and religions, and likewise his impressions in respect to the principles of national intercourse between Oriental and Occidental peoples. He severely denounces the practice of abusing the inhabitants or the authorities of Chinese and Japanese cities as if they "had no rights which white men are bound to respect."

At length the two geologists, having spent but a day in the capital, are sent to Yesso, the most northern island of the group, to begin their professional work. Even here their journey was restricted to a comparatively small region, in the southern peninsula of the island, around Hakodadi, the open port of the north. A route-map inserted in the volume renders it easy to follow the travellers in this part of their work, and makes us regret that a similar sketch was not given of the vicinity of Yokohama. For want of the latter, an ordinary reader is not a little embarrassed.

We shall not attempt to introduce our readers to the mineralogical

and metallurgical notes which are suggested by the two journeys in Southern Yesso,—to the solfatara of Esan and of Iwaounobori (where the government works produce monthly about sixty-four thousand pounds, at a total cost of \$183.25), to the lead-mines of Ichinowatari and Yurup, to the gold-washings of Kunnui, and to the bituminous coal-beds near the Kaiyanobetz Creek. How much there is for the Japanese to learn, respecting the development of these mineral resources, may be inferred from the fact that these American miners made the first application of powder to mining that had ever been attempted in Japan. Though China and Japan have so long used gunpowder, this application of it has been neglected from ignorance or from fear. Suggestions were made to the Japanese in respect to the introduction of pumping-machinery in their mines, and other useful instructions were given to the native officers attached to the Americans; but all at once, the Taicoon, alarmed, or compelled by the anti-foreign party to give up some of his liberal schemes, closed his engagement with the Messrs. Pumpelly and Blake, in February, 1863. The year which they had spent in Japan had been a good preparation for future work, and the tears which were shed when the parting came, by the young officers who had been companions and pupils of the foreigners, showed how much they had valued the instruction received. "They were the only tears I saw in the eyes of a man in Japan or China," says Mr. Pumpelly.

We ought not to turn from this portion of the book without mentioning that a chapter on Japanese Art is introduced, from the pen of Mr. John Lafarge, illustrated by fac-simile prints.

There is, to us, less that is novel in Mr. Pumpelly's narrative of his experience in China than in the other portions of the book; but even these chapters are marked by the same vivid descriptions, the same good sense, and the same freedom from threadbare reflections, which characterize the remainder of his work.

His interior travels began with a boat-journey up the Yangtse River, extending over a period of two months. He visited Hankau, that wonderfully populous aggregation of towns, and then pushed on to Changsha, the capital of Hunan, hoping to penetrate to the coal-fields in the southern part of that province, and then to ascend the river to a still higher point. But the farther he went, the more obstacles he encountered, in consequence of the hostility felt towards foreigners; and so, from Changsha, he reversed his course, and returned to Shanghai.

Pekin was his next centre of observation. Here he became freed from the prejudices he had contracted on the coast, and, under the influences of Mr. Burlingame and Sir Frederick Bruce, began to look upon the peo-

ple of China from a new point of view. At the instance of these two diplomatists, the Chinese government requested Mr. Pumpelly to examine some of their chief coal-fields, with reference to supplying with fuel the new flotilla of gunboats which had then just been purchased in England. The geological conference, over a lunch with the Board of Foreign Affairs, brought out some curious Chinese hypotheses. Among them was a theory of the growth of coal in abandoned mines: everything being produced by the coaction of *yin* and *yang*, force and matter, the active and the passive, the male and the female, principles in nature, why should not coal be continually produced in circumstances which once favored it?

Under this appointment, Mr. Pumpelly examined the coal-measures to the northwest of Pekin, his account of which has been published in the papers of the Smithsonian Institution; but, on returning to Pekin from this first official reconnoissance, he learned that the Imperial authorities had decided to send back to England the flotilla, and were consequently quite indifferent to the further prosecution of his geological inquiries.

An excursion of six weeks along the great wall, a visit to Nagasaki, and the long homeward journey across Tartary, Siberia, and Russia, furnish abundant materials for further descriptions, — too abundant for any detailed notice here.

Two noteworthy chapters are thrown into the midst of these vivacious narratives, — one on the Chinese as emigrants, and the other on Western policy in China. Both of these are important in their bearing upon the great Chinese problem, which throughout the world now attracts such marked attention from philanthropists and statesmen. With the liberal views of the author the readers of this Review are already acquainted.

We have noticed many typographical slips in our copy of this volume, and some slight literary inaccuracies, but they do not impair the great merits of this work, and, as the publishers have announced a revised edition, require no further notice here.

2. — *Geological Survey of California.* J. D. WHITNEY, State Geologist.

1. *The Yosemite Book: A Description of the Yosemite Valley and the adjacent Region of the Sierra Nevada, and of the Big Trees of California, illustrated by Maps and Photographs.* Published by authority of the Legislature. New York: Julius Bien. 1868. 4to. pp. 116.